

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - July 31, 2006

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that United States District Judge Marilyn L. Huff today sentenced Gabino Bello-Juarez in federal court in San Diego to serve 46 months in custody for transportation of an illegal alien, resulting in death, and bringing an illegal alien to the United States for financial gain. Bello-Juarez pled guilty on May 9, 2006, to alien smuggling, and acknowledged in his plea agreement that an illegal alien died during the offense.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Carlos Arguello, who prosecuted the case, on March 11, 2006, Bello-Juarez guided a small group of aliens through the desert from Mexico into the United States near Tecate, California. Bello-Juarez admitted that he guided the aliens through the desert in freezing conditions. That same day, one of the aliens, Alberto Abner Ramos-Ramirez, died of hypothermia due to the inclement weather and the lack of precautions taken by Bello-Juarez to prepare the aliens for the cold temperatures. Bello-Juarez also acknowledged he was being paid to act as a guide during the incident.

United States Attorney Lam said, "Alien smuggling sometimes quickly turns into tragedy, which is why we place a high priority on prosecuting smugglers who show little regard for the safety of others." She commended the United States Border Patrol for its work on the investigation of this case, and the Pine Valley Fire Department for its emergency rescue efforts.

**DEFENDANT**      **Case Number: 06cr0596-H**

Gabino Bello-Juarez

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii) (Bringing an Alien to the United States for Financial Gain)

Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii) and (a)(1)(B)(iv)(Transportation of an Illegal Alien Resulting in Death)

**INVESTIGATING AGENCY**

U.S. Border Patrol